

Jordan Times

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Fresh water through sun power: Germany, RSS cooper

By Ron Cathell

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, April 25 -- With the assistance of West Germany, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) will soon launch two new solar energy projects aimed at ensuring supplies of fresh, clean drinking water for people in remote arid regions, according to Dr. Otfried Schneider, solar division head of German Appropriate Technology Exchange (GATE).

One project will focus on perfecting a simple water distillation process using the greenhouse method, and the other project will combine both solar energy and wind power to pump water from wells -- a project never before attempted here. Dr. Schneider told the Jordan Times recently. Both projects will take two years and cost a total of about DM 6 million (JD 1 million). DM 2.5 million for the distillation project and DM 3.5 million for the well pumping project.

Dr. Schneider, a top German hydrologist, was in Jordan last week to review progress on the GATE-RSS solar desalination project at Aqaba, which was officially completed last Saturday when West Germany and the National Planning Council (NPC) signed the extension agreement for 1979, marking the end of the very successful two-year project.

Signing of the extension agreement made official the aid Jordan had already received in the past year. The plant, now exclusively a Jordanian operation, will continue producing 2,625 litres of clean water an hour.

While here, Dr. Schneider wrapped up a few details of the next project between the two science and technology centres. An RSS official told the Jordan Times that this project, the water distillation system, will be started in about a month following signing of the agreement with GATE, which will initiate the transfer of West

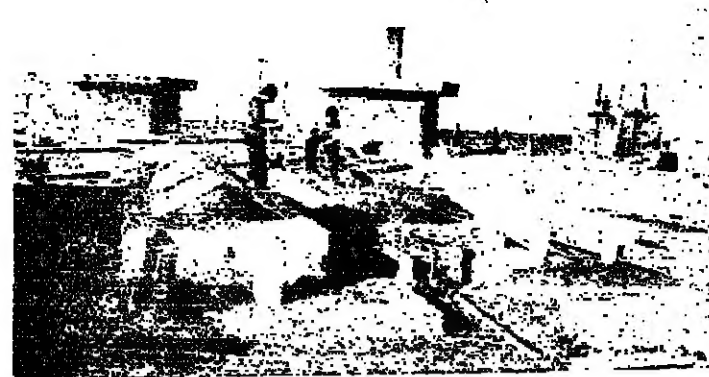
German aid for the project. GATE is a branch of West Germany's institute for technical cooperation (GTZ).

For the distillation project, GATE and the RSS will draw on the vast assortment of greenhouse techniques used throughout the world, and adapt several types for use in different conditions. The purpose of the project, Dr. Schneider says, is to refine the design of a few types of distillation greenhouse that could be easily assembled and maintained by local inhabitants.

Dr. Schneider's sights are not set just on helping the inhabitants of Jordan's remote area. He hopes the knowledge and skills gained in the project can be utilised throughout the Middle East and Africa, where the supply of clean drinking water is often meagre. "This technology eventually will be used in the Middle East and Africa in arid areas where there is only brackish water from wells 200 to 300 metres deep and with too much salinity or minerals," Dr. Schneider said.

West Germany chose Jordan as the site of the project because of the excellent results achieved in previous joint projects. Dr. Schneider has been working with the RSS on joint projects and offering technical assistance for seven years, and their track record shows nothing but success.

"The RSS is one of the most efficient institutes of its kind," the water engineer said. "You present



Two experimental distillation greenhouses have already been built and are undergoing tests as part of the Aqaba desalination project in Aqaba.

them with a project idea, and they can do it. I'm sure we'll perfect these systems to be used elsewhere."

Jordan is also geographically ideal for Mr. Schneider's work. Not only does it receive more than its share of sunny days with rare exceptions such as the past winter, it also has vast arid regions where water supply is a problem. This makes dry-solar project sites in Jordan perfect "laboratories" in practice, where techniques can be perfected under the conditions of the field," Dr. Schneider said.

The principle of the greenhouse method of distilling water is simple, but there are many variations. Basically, a low greenhouse-shaped structure, usually about one metre high, intensifies the sun's heat. Brackish or unclear water is passed through the green-

house and allowed to evaporate. As the vapour, pure of pollutants and minerals, comes in contact with the cool sides of the greenhouse, it condenses, streams down the walls, and is collected.

Dr. Schneider wants to devise greenhouses that can be made from materials available locally, and simple enough for local inhabitants to operate and maintain.

Other greenhouse distillation units throughout the world have a lifetime of only up to six months because of corrosion problems and the build up of residues, but he is convinced models can be devised that can operate indefinitely. He criticises the international mechanism for the transfer and exchange of technology on the subject as not being put to practical use.

"I've been to more conferences on such subjects than you would believe. And all that the 'experts' do is talk, talk talk. But we want to 'do' and put ideas into practical use," Dr. Schneider said.

"The main part of all this research is not for the sake of research itself, but it is to aid the locals, the industries and factories so they can eventually do it themselves," he said.

Because of the varying geographical and climatic conditions of the regions where the distillation

units would be used, Dr. Schneider wants to develop a system appropriate to each situation to ensure that the most efficient method is being employed. Once the different units are perfected, West Germany may consider manufacturing prefabricated models for countries which do not have the capability to make their own.

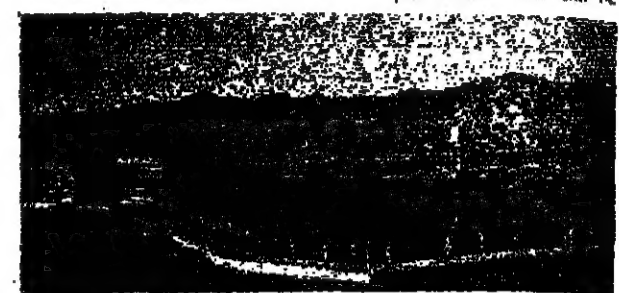
In a separate, unprecedented project, GATE and the RSS are to build an autonomous system which will use solar energy and wind power to pump water from deep wells in remote areas where there is no fuel or conventional power source to drive electronic pumps.

No official agreement on this subject has yet been signed between the two sides, but in meetings here last month with RSS and NPC officials, Dr. Schneider was given the green light to prepare and present a feasibility study to GATE and the West German government. Approval of the project is assured, Dr. Schneider told the Jordan Times that the inter-

The airport area is ideal because it is relatively dry, RSS, and yet it is still in region.

"We're undertaking now to pump water 200 hours using solar energy," Schneider said. "But this very big fields of photo cells, and they are very expensive. If you want to supply a couple of eight to ten thousand with the water from wells forget about using the solar. It could be done, but cost a fortune. I'm more in hundreds of small nomads and their she goats." He added that he like to use solar energy and wind power at a much which is more efficient, combining both methods a pure the results.

One application of which should be using the autonomous systems to lift water for use in arid areas where petroleum fuel can be



An example of West German technical cooperation: the Aqaba desalination plant.

mans have agreed in principle to the project. So he is now in Germany busy preparing the feasibility study and itemised cost estimate.

Work on the project could start even before a financial assistance agreement is signed, by using some of the funds marked for the distillation project. The RSS and GATE want to begin immediately on the pumping project, and admit that the transfer of DM 2.5 million this year for the distillation project is more than is required at this time. If all parties agree, the project can get underway immediately and be followed later in the year with signing of a financial and technical assistance agreement.

The project involves starting electricity in batteries that are charged both by solar (photo-voltaic) cells and by a wind-driven generator. This combination would ensure a constant electricity supply -- solar cells are efficient for only six peak hours of the day, but the wind continues to blow, at varying speeds, for 24 hours each day.

Dr. Schneider has already located two sites at which to start the project, both near the new Queen Alia airport. He has received permission to use the wells at both spots from the Natural Resources Authority and the Water Supply Corporation.

drive generators. Never Jordan, such as Qal'at south, are barren desert known underground reserves. In many such soil is remarkably fertile is needed is a low-cost bringing water to the

West Germany has spent DM 10 million research projects and assistance. Most of it went into the desalination Aqaba. After two years and upgrading, the plant capable of producing 100,000 cubic metres of pure water an hour square metre of a solar panel. The plant now square metres of solar

This amount is a improvement over the an hour output obtained after the plant was first built. The German hydrologists improved to five litres an hour, during the second year, the optimum seven litres an hour was remarkable accomplishment such a short time.

Dr. Schneider is project and the men he who carried it out, excellent engineers he "And they are now thinking, solar."

Fear and foreboding

ONE OF President Carter's policy advisers is said to have warned darkly during an in-house debate on America's handling of the Iran crisis this week that "we are slipping down a slippery slope towards a military confrontation."

By authorising the attempted rescue mission which has ended in disaster in the remote Iranian desert, Mr. Carter seems to have taken a decided leap down that slope.

Since the news of the abortive mission was announced yesterday, the world has held its breath. Whatever may have been the rescue plan, and however one may sympathise with America's collective exasperation over the hostages affair, the fact remains that the U.S. has mounted a military operation against a hostile foreign country. In doing so it has ended the period when it has merely been "declining to rule out" the use of force to try and resolve this dispute. The operation mounted effectively kills the prospect of a negotiated solution being achieved through diplomatic means; further diplomatic moves will be meaningless.

This is alarming not only in terms of the precedent it sets and the danger in which it places the American hostages, but because President Carter seems to have ignored the mounting chorus of advice he has been getting, particularly from America's European allies, not to resort to a military option. Just a day before the rescue teams landed in the Iranian desert, the White House was saying it "strongly welcomes" EEC support for proposed economic sanctions against Iran. At the same time, many of those allies were sending clear signals to Washington about the perils of military action. And now, in giving details of the aborted mission, President Carter has said the support of America's allies is needed more than ever before. The allies (including Japan), who stand to lose as much as the U.S. in terms of economic interests from the alienation of Iran, can hardly feel reassured about their reluctant agreement to go along with the American sanctions proposal, when President Carter now says the military rescue mission was launched because he was convinced that the Iranian authorities "could not and would not resolve this crisis on their own initiative." If so, what good were sanctions supposed to do? And what good do Europe and Japan now gain from having committed themselves to take a belligerent stance against Iran?

There were also voices in the U.S. crying out against any contemplated use of force. Only the other day, a U.S. Methodist Church delegation had called on Mr. Carter "not to give in to those who counsel military intervention, nor to take steps which will lead eventually to war." And only the day before the mission was aborted in disaster, Mr. Carter was sending soothing messages to the Senate foreign relations committee about holding the military option in abeyance.

Furthermore, can all the planners and thinkers and strategists in the White House basement have missed the fact that, only the day before the mission was apparently launched, the Iranians had asked the Soviet Union to help them in the event of any American military move? The Soviets, eager to improve their relations with Tehran and enhance their position generally in the region, are likely to respond favourably to such a request. Now they have the best reason in the world for doing so.

And, as the London Daily Telegraph said in an editorial yesterday: "Any form of military action against Iran would open the possibility of direct clashes between American and Russian forces. Since in any such localised encounter in that part of the world, Russian forces would have an overwhelming advantage, the result could only be either a humiliating defeat for America or the broadening of the conflict, possibly into a nuclear war." As it turns out, the bungle has produced both the humiliation and the threat of a wider conflict.

The White House's bland assurances that the operation was not directed against the Iranian people are unlikely to placate the authorities in Tehran, who must now, under intense pressure, cast about for a response appropriate to their own perceptions and requirements -- a response to what they can only see as a hostile, armed attack on their sovereign territory.

It is in these circumstances that those of us in this region feel such fear and foreboding, as a very real source of potential global conflict is once again planted in our midst. The Iran mission was an ill-advised move taken by a poorly advised President.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I: Israeli terrorism and acts of repression against Arabs in the occupied territories have assumed dangerous proportions with the unleashing of Zionist vandals from their settlements to cause widespread damage to Arab property.

The window-smashing rampage against Arab homes and vehicles in Ramallah and Al Bireh is but a further sign of Israel's policy of evicting Palestinians from their homeland by deliberate escalation of terrorism against the Arab population. It is natural, therefore, that the Arabs, in self-defence, vow to retaliate for Israeli vandalism.

AL DUSTOUR: The results of recent visits to Washington by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and the leader of Israel's opposition Labour Party, Mr. Shimon Peres, are incongruent and somewhat puzzling.

Mr. Begin had accused both the Americans and the Egyptians of not honouring the letter and the spirit of the Camp David agreements, whereas we hear Mr. Peres and President Carter announce yesterday that they have a broad agreement on the Middle East situation and on methods of settling the region's problems.

Washington at first seemed to support Mr. Begin's views even when he set very difficult conditions for the resumption of the autonomy talks; now it seems to be supporting Mr. Peres's ideas as though it were endorsing his party's rise to power. But what should be emphasised is that with any government in Israel, be it led by Likud or by Labour, nothing will improve as long as Washington continues to support the expansionist design of Israel.

Local News Briefs

AMMAN, April 25 (JNA)--A four-day seminar on the role of women in society will open here tomorrow under the chairmanship of His Highness Crown Prince Hassan. A number of working papers on women's problems and their role in education, vocational training and social work will be presented at the seminar which will be attended by participants from ten Arab states and Palestine as well as representatives from UNESCO, UNICEF and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The seminar is organised by the Ministry of Labour in cooperation with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

DAMASCUS, April 25 (JNA)--The Syrian-Jordanian joint electrical power committee began its 14th meeting here today to review the countries' projects. A four-member team from the Jordan Electricity Authority is representing Jordan in the three-day meeting.

AMMAN, April 25 (JNA)--The visiting Soviet educational delegation today visited the ancient city of Petra in southern Jordan. The delegation later was taken on a tour of the agricultural school in Shobak, where its members were briefed on the school's activities and programmes.

AMMAN, April 25 (JT)--As of yesterday the two bridges across the River Jordan were reopened to normal traffic, a spokesman for the Public Security Directorate (PSD) said yesterday. He was quoted by Al Ra'i newspaper as saying that the intermittent closure of the bridges was so that repairs could be done on the bridges, which sustained damage due to the rising level of river water because of this winter's heavy rains. Al Ra'i also reported that Public Security has announced tenders for the construction of modern passport and travellers' halls near the bridges.

AMMAN, April 25 (JNA)--A two-day conference of Arab dentists ended here today. Participants listened to lectures by prominent dentists from Jordan, Iraq and Syria on dental diseases and modern

methods of treatment. The conference, organised by the Jordanian Dentists' Association, was opened at the Professional Association Complex last night by Health Minister Zuhair Malhas, who also inaugurated a trade exhibition of dental equipment, clinics and medicine.

RAMTHA, April 25 (JNA)--A number of people were taken ill after drinking contaminated water from a tower situated in the northern district of this town. Health Minister Zuhair Malhas, who supervised the treatment of those infected at the town's hospital, said they were all given speedy treatment and have been discharged after being completely cured. Medical enquiries have been started to determine the cause of the contamination and a team of doctors and specialists was set up to help conduct the task. Dr. Malhas said. According to the Governor of Irbid, Mr. Abed Daudiye, pumping of drinking water from the water tower to the town has been halted pending the team's findings, and that work has already started on the replacement of the old water pipe network in the town.

Continued from page 1

emphasis on principles." The King bitterly criticised the problems caused by electoral considerations in American policy.

The EEC leaders have indicated that they will wait at least until the May 26 deadline for agreement in the Egyptian-Israeli autonomy talks before formally unveiling their Middle East plans.

But today King Hussein insisted that more urgent action was needed as it had become obvious that the Camp David process had "run out of steam."

Both the King and Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, his new Prime Minister, have made it clear in interviews that any lingering American or Egyptian hopes that Jordan may still belatedly be persuaded to join the Camp David process are based on wishful thinking.

There is considerable anger at all levels of the Jordanian government about what is seen as repeated efforts by the Carter administration to try to force Jordan into playing a part.

The King today repeated his central and unchanged conviction that the Palestinian issue remains the key to any future Middle East settlement. "As far as that aspect was concerned the Camp David formula was always a non-starter," he told me.

"It spoke of people but not of land, and about rights which these people could exercise as guests under Israeli control and occupation. It was really just an excuse for Israel to try to gain time and alter the shape of reality to a point where the obstacles in the way of any real attempt to find a lasting solution would be monumental."

During the 60-minute interview, the King was pessimistic about the chances of forging sufficient Arab unity for a joint initiative to counter the Camp David process.

Although this remains his long-term goal, and will again he pursued in advance of the Amman Arab summit in November, it appears that there is little chance of it being achieved especially after the divisions brought to light by this month's meeting in Tripoli of the "steadfastness" group.

As a result, the Jordanian monarch -- whose own participation has long been regarded as vital for a comprehensive settlement -- sees European intervention as the Middle East's best hope. "At this stage, the United States has lost the possibility of influencing events in the region in a positive way," he stated.

The King, who has had extensive diplomatic contacts with European governments in recent months, revealed that he shared the view of the British Foreign Office that Arab support for the West over issues like Afghanistan is not feasible in the present Middle East situation.

"The Palestinian problem and lack of a solution is dividing the area from what could be identified as the rest of the free world," he

declared. "You cannot expect backing of the people because of the role played by the Muslims of when Jerusalem -- which is to millions of Christians -- is still an occupation."

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Damas-Scene

ed for the Jordan Times by Pat McDonnell

(Week of April 26 - May 2)

EXHIBITIONS

Y, April 28: A collection of photos commemorating 60 Soviet rule in Azerbaijan will open for one week in the Cultural Centre.

Y, April 29: Damascene artist Mamoun Homsi will be in a solo show, entitled "Man and Earth" in Al Sha'b 6:30 p.m. reception will open the 10-day show. Born in Homs, Homs is a graduate of the Fine Arts Centre. Approx. 4 abstract oil paintings will be shown in this, the artist's 1st show. Hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 4 - 8 p.m. daily except

YUG: In conjunction with Yugoslav Cultural Week, a collection of original oil paintings by Yugoslav artists is on view in the Hall of the Damascus National Museum. Informal films, lectures and dance recitals may be obtained by the Yugoslav Embassy.

Y: A collection of mixed media works by Palestinian painters is to be on view through Monday in the "Karamah Day" in Al Sha'b Gallery.

Y: More than 70 reproductions of satirical cartoons by French artists from 1830 to the present continues in the French Centre. The works of Daumier, Effel, Poulot, Chaval, and Sempe are included.

LECTURES

Y, April 27: "The Kosovo Region of Yugoslavia" will be a lecture sponsored by the Arab Writers' Union at 6 p.m. in the Arab Cultural Centre (in Arabic).

Y, April 28: In the series of lectures entitled "Writer and the World" Dr. Mohammad Mohaffil and Dr. Subell Zakar will discuss the Khazari Empire at 6 p.m. in the Arab Cultural Centre.

Y, April 29: "Actualite Artistique en France" entitled a lecture by Mr. Jean-Pierre Fournier, a professor of art from a Paris film school. The first lecture is entitled "The Talk will be illustrated by colour slides (in French)." The talk will be illustrated by colour slides (in French).

Y, April 30: "The latest novel by Hermann Kant, will be discussed by Dr. Wilhelm Vietinghoff at 8 p.m. in the German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre. Mr. Kant is head of the department at the centre. A small number of copies of the novel are available on loan from the centre. The lecture will be in German.

SDAY, April 30: "Plant Protection by Aviation" will be a lecture by Dr. Reinhard Bartsch at 8 p.m. in the Goethe Institute. The speaker is affiliated with the University of Hohenheim and has carried out work in plant protection by aircraft in the Sudan and Morocco.

VIDEO-TAPED PROGRAMME

SDAY, April 30: A dramatic presentation of the problem from the influx of the rural population to the cities, "Les plus au champs," will be shown at 6 p.m. in the Cultural Centre.

FILMS

Y, April 26 and MONDAY, April 28: "Les Grandes" a psychological film about a love triangle directed by Enrico in 1965, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. both evenings in the Cultural Centre (in French, with Arabic sub-titles: d white). Lino Ventura and Michel Constantin star.

Y, April 26: "Interiors" by Woody Allen will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in the Cultural Centre.



"The Land" on tiles this oil painting by Mamoun Homsi, one of 24 works featured in a one-man show at Al Sha'b Gallery.

shown at 7:30 p.m. in the American Cultural Centre. Tickets may be obtained by signing up for membership at the centre.

Y, April 27: "Ein Tag Mit Dem Wind" entitled a 1977 film directed by Haro Senft to be shown in the Goethe Institute. It stars Marcel Maillard and Barbara Rutzmoser (in German, with Arabic sub-titles).

SUNDAY, April 27: "On the Way to Lenin," a feature film after the book by Alfred Kurella, will be shown at 6:30 p.m. in the German Democratic Cultural Centre (Arabic sub-titles). A documentary, "Man is at the Centre," also will be shown (in Arabic).

MONDAY, April 28: Two documentaries, one on the capital city of Azerbaijan, the other on the fine arts of Azerbaijan, will be shown at 7 p.m. in the Soviet Cultural Centre (in English, with Arabic sub-titles).

Y, April 28: A film on the fine arts of Britain will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in the British Cultural Centre.

TUESDAY, April 29: Films on the natural sciences will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in the British Cultural Centre.

WEDNESDAY, April 30: "The Chairman" entitled a feature film to be shown at 7 p.m. in the Soviet Cultural Centre (in Russian, with Arabic sub-titles).

Y, April 30: Films on astronomy and the universe will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in the British Cultural Centre.

THURSDAY, May 1: The British Cultural Centre will show films on education at 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, May 3: "The Traditional World of Islam," Parts I - III, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in the British Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

THE NATIONAL THEATRE OF SYRIA is presenting Ali Okla Arsan's adaptation of Sophocles' "Antigone" nightly at Al Kabani Theatre. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. (in Arabic).

"AL MUFTAH" (The Key) entitled a drama presented at 8:30 p.m. in Al Hamra Theatre. Assad Fouda is directing the show (in Arabic).

PAT-POURRI

THE SYRIAN ARAB CULTURAL CENTRE opens tonight, April 26, in Paris. More than 40 paintings by 28 of Syria's most outstanding artists are featured in the opening ceremonies. Folk dancing and rustic photos will also be on display.

If you have items for the Damas-Scene column, please send them to P.O. Box 5601 or telephone them to Pat McDonnell in Damascus at 336-658.

Jordanian researcher discovers new cell

By Fawzia Mai
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, April 25--A new type of brain cell has been discovered by a Jordanian histologist, Dr. Munib Al Wirr, and was enthusiastically received by the International Symposium on the Morphological Sciences in August of last year in Ohio. The cell, named by Dr. Wirr a neuro-lipomastoid cell (NLMC), was also called by the International Anatomical Nomenclature a "Wirr cell", after its discoverer.

It was eight years ago that Dr. Wirr embarked on the studies that were to lead to his discovery. He was then looking for an explanation for the presence of serotonin (one of the chemical substances responsible for allergic reactions) in the cerebrospinal fluid (a fluid bathing the brain and the spinal cord). Since it could not have filtered through from the blood, it had to come from somewhere else.

Then in 1973, Dr. Wirr noticed some cells that looked like mast cells (a type of cell found elsewhere in the body, which usually release many kinds of chemical substances -- including serotonin and thus cause allergic reactions). Upon further studies, he found that they were in fact two types of cells.

One is very much like mast cells, and consequently was named Type I mast cell, whereas the second is somehow different and contains a lot of lipid (fatty) material. And so, Dr. Wirr named it a neuro-lipomastoid cell: "A descriptive name," he stressed to the Jordan Times. "Neuro" because it is found only in brain tissue, "lipo" because it is rich in lipid material, and "mastoid" because it resembles the mast cell.

In order to determine the exact structure and contents of this cell, Dr. Wirr used histochemical methods, autoradiography and electron microscopy. There is no electron microscope at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Jordan, where he works as a professor of histology -- the study of anatomical tissues. So he did most of his study using the electron microscope of the medical school at the American University of Beirut where he was Visiting Professor of Histology last year.

Thus he determined that the NLMC is a sometimes spherical, sometimes ellipsoid and sometimes spindle-shaped cell, of an average diameter of 10 microns (thousandths of a millimetre). The NLMC's two main characteristics

are: first, that it is situated adjacent to venules and arterioles (minute blood vessels) embedded in the outer coat of blood vessels in the brain; and second, that it contains granules that release upon stress substances like serotonin, histamin and heparin.

"Stress" is a rather general term, explained Dr. Wirr, encompassing a number of factors such as cold, high pressure and direct trauma. Dr. Wirr tested the response of the NLMC to these factors and found that it "responded very easily to these factors by degranulation" -- that is, the granules would release the substances stored in them.

If the "stress" is of a physiological or very light pathological order, then the reaction is a reversible one. That is, after some time, the granules will be replenished with the substances they have released.

But if the stress is severely pathological, then the degranulation is irreversible. The cell becomes exhausted and shrinks; and upon microscopic examination of the area of the brain that received the stress, one can see remnants of NLMC cells lying around. Ultimately, new cells will replace the traumatised ones -- but this will take considerably more time than replenishment in less severe cases.

This degranulation process, according to Dr. Wirr, is of the utmost importance, and, he confided to the Jordan Times, "might explain many of the mysterious symptoms of some nervous diseases, and the sequelae (after effects) of direct trauma to the brain." He refused to go into more detail about what he meant by symptoms and sequelae, because this is only a theory so far, and he is working on new studies in order to prove it.

The function in other parts of the body of the chemical substances released by the NLMC is to cause allergic reactions; but in the brain, "their function is not known exactly," Dr. Wirr theorises, however, that they may be in great part responsible for the harmful effects appearing after severe trauma to the brain. His present work concentrates on the function of these substances and on "how to avoid harm to the brain by controlling their (the NLMC's) cell membranes".

To continue his research, Dr. Wirr will be using the electron microscope (EM) situated in the Biological Department at the University of Jordan. However, he finds this arrangement incon-



Dr. Munib Al Wirr

venient, and says that the Medical Faculty is "struggling with the university administration to get a budget to acquire an EM unit for the Faculty of Medicine."

"The administration thinks the one in the biology department is enough for everybody. But it is not. An EM unit serves not only research work but it is also a very valuable help in clinical diagnosis. It is especially useful for the diagnosis of certain diseases of the liver, kidney and muscles. The medical schools' hospitals at Damascus and Beirut regularly use their EM unit for diagnostic purposes, and I do hope the administration will soon agree to allocate us a budget for an EM unit."

Dr. Munib Al Wirr was born in Salt in 1948. He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree from the Faculty of Science of the University of Jordan, then moved to

the American University of Beirut (AUB), where he later obtained his Master's degree and his PhD in Basic Medical Sciences, with a sub-specialty in Histology.

He then taught histology (the science dealing with the microscopic structures of living things) at the AUB's medical school before joining the staff of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Jordan. He was also invited by AUB last year to take the temporary position of visiting professor in anatomy and histology.

Besides teaching and research work, Dr. Wirr has published a number of articles in medical journals such as *Acta Anatomica*, the *Neurological Sciences Journal*, and the *Brain Research Journal*, and taken part in many international conferences on basic medical sciences and histology.

Talking about his success at the International Symposium on the Morphological Sciences last August, Dr. Wirr says the "reaction was marvellous and unbelievable." In previous conferences where over the years he presented the various stages of his research before its completion, some scientists, especially older ones, refused to accept the idea of these cells because this would completely upset many of their theories.

The morphological symposium is held once every two years and presents only the most important unpublished new work on anatomy and histology. Dr. Wirr has been invited to give a talk to the American Association of Anatomists in Nebraska this month. He has also been invited to participate in the International Congress of Anatomists in Mexico in August of this year.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	302.50/304.50
U.K. sterling	688.20/692.50
West German mark	166.50/167.50
Swiss franc	178.50/179.60
French franc	71.40/71.80
Italian lire	34.40/35.60
Japanese yen	124.00/124.70
Dutch guilder	151.10/152.00
Swedish crown	70.40/70.80
Belgian franc	103.80/104.40

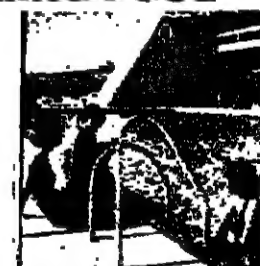
TODAY'S WEATHER

It will be fine, with north-westerly, moderate winds. In Aqaba, winds will be a north-easterly and calm seas.

	Overnight	Daytime
Amman	8	20
Aqaba	14	30
Deserts	9	24
Jordan Valley	13	28

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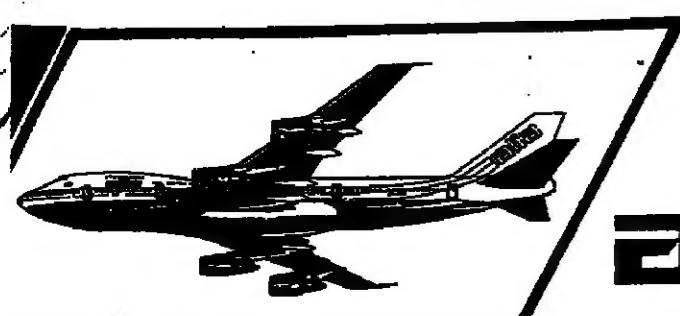
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Japan signs new oil contracts

TOKYO, April 25 (R)—Six Japanese trading houses, hit by the suspension of Iranian oil shipments have signed contracts with Qatar to import a total of 125,000 barrels of crude a day, industry sources said here today. Under one-year direct deal contracts from this month, they will pay a premium of \$6.5 in addition to the sales price of \$29.23 for 45,000 barrels, they said.

Mitsubishi Corp, Mitsui and Company, Sumitomo Corp, Nichimen, Nissho-Iwai and C. Itoh, will pay just the sales price for the remainder of the crude from Qatar, which supplied Japan with 85,000 barrels a day last year.

Yesterday, industry sources said two other Japanese firms, Idemitsu Kosan Kaisha and Daikyo Oil, had signed one year contracts to buy extra crude total-

ling 110,000 barrels a day from Kuwait. Both companies have agreed to pay a premium of \$5.50 a barrel on top of the normal purchase price of \$27.50 for the extra oil, they added. Last year, Kuwait supplied Japan with nearly 162 million barrels of oil out of a total of 1.77 billion.

Meanwhile, the sources said that apart from Qatar and Kuwait, Japanese trading firms and oil refineries were looking to Indonesia, Mexico and the United Arab Emirates for increased oil supplies to lessen the impact of the Iranian suspension.

Indonesia's state-run Pertamina Corp has told Japanese importers that it will increase shipments to Japan by 30,000 barrels a day from next month. At present, Japan receives 200,000 barrels daily from Pertamina, they added.

Gold price jumps to \$552

LONDON, April 25. (Agencies)—The price of gold and key commodities rose sharply today after the U.S. announcement of a failed attempt to rescue the U.S. hostages in Iran. Investors, anxious about international tensions and possible repercussions from the attempt, hurried to buy strategic materials.

Traders said some Far Eastern markets, the first to bear the brunt of the news, were thrown into turmoil. The dollar also began a decline but central banks moved quickly to support it by buying dollars, currency dealers said.

After the first hectic reaction on international markets, however, the volume of trading dropped off and prices steadied. Investors were holding back to await clarification of the U.S. operation and to analyse its possible consequences. The price of gold lifted to \$552 an ounce compared with \$528.5

just before the White House disclosed the attempt. Other metals and important commodities rose by between 1.5 and four per cent, a substantial rise by normal standards.

Copper rose in pre-market trading in London by £38 to £962 a tonne and aluminium by £17 to £834 a tonne. Nickel, tin, lead and silver also lifted sharply in price.

However, one factor helping the value of the dollar was a rise in interest rates on dollars deposited in Europe which was itself caused by concern about the failed attempt to free the hostages. Interest rates usually increase in response to a rise in risk.

Meanwhile, on Wall Street, the Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks dropped 5.63 to 791.47 in the first half hour. Declines outnumbered advances by a 4 to 1 ratio in the early rally of New York stock exchange-listed issues.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON, April 25 (R)—Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at the close of trading on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets today.

One sterling	2.2760/90
One U.S. dollar	1.1830/33
	1.8150/75
	1.9970/2.0020
	1.6870/6900
	28.95/29.05
	4.2200/4.2300
	847.00/850.00
	245.00/246.00
	4.2625/2725
	4.9575/9675
	5.6700/6900
One ounce of gold	546.00/549.00

U.S. dollar	
Canadian dollar	
West German marks	
Dutch guilders	
Swiss francs	
Belgian francs	
French francs	
Italian lire	
Japanese yen	
Swedish crowns	
Norwegian crowns	
Danish crowns	
U.S. dollars	

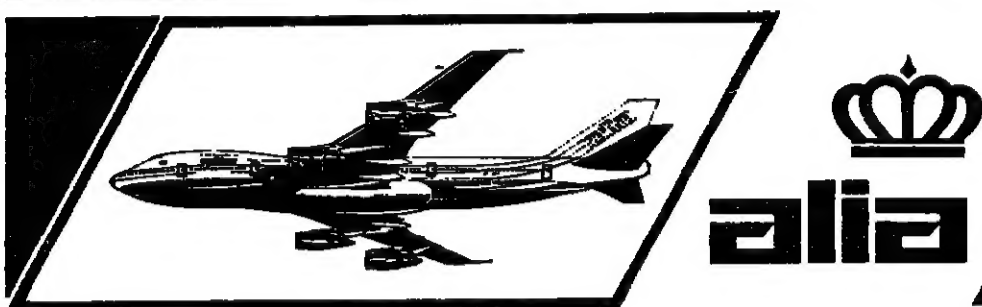
LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON, April 25 (R)—Gold shares moved higher while oil issues eased in extremely nervous conditions, dealers said. The FT index was down 8.7 to 426.1.

Training was overshadowed by news of the abortive attempt to rescue the American hostages in Tehran. Equity prices were marked lower at the outset and despite some cheap buying in early trading tended to drift lower throughout the session, with lead shares closing as much as 11p down. Government bonds shed much as 1½ point in small turnover but gold shares gained up \$7.00 with the stronger bullion price. American shares closed lower while Canadians were narrowly mixed.

Among leading equities GEC eased 11p while Thorn fell 8p. Banks had Lloyds and Barclays 4p and 2p down respectively while among chemicals ICI eased 8p and Fisons 7p.

Selective gains in oils on early hedge buying were generally eroded but Lasso and Tricentral closed with gains of 4p and 3p respectively. BP, Burmah and Shell ended 8p lower. Johnson Matthey finished 10p higher at 256 reflecting stronger bullion price.



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CAST FOR SATURDAY, APR. 26, 1980

YOUR DAILY
horoscope
The Carroll Righter Institute

(Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You have important work it should not be neglected for some passing or you could regret it later.

(Apr. 20 to May 20) Make those plans for the future and then carry through with them carefully and keep boredom away.

(May 21 to June 21) Attend to those home it are impossible to do during work week and a harmony there.

(June 22 to July 21) Show that you are any length to please family members. Engage in obnoxious with congeniality.

(July 22 to Aug. 21) Good day to tackle any repairs your property and make changes to give you effort. Use care in motion.

(Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Go after whatever you want today and get good results. Take time to be friends and have a good time.

(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Analyze your life and know what it more productive and satisfying in the past and ease tensions.

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You are now able to gain aim that has been difficult to get in the past. Acquaintances into friends.

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be more concerned getting public work done today and get good like no risks with your reputation.

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You can now plan to abundance in the future and be happier. Be to cooperate with others.

(Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Handle routine chores today so you will have more time for recreation for increased happiness.

(Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Contact good friends who may during work week and exchange personal like good care of your health.

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LES H. GOREN
MAR SHARIF
Chicago Tribune

vulnerable. West

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632

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JORDAN TIMES SPORTS ROUNDUP

Women compete in London's first marathon

LONDON, April 25 (AP) — Women athletes from 30 countries are expected to compete in London's first round-the-streets marathon race next August. Maria Hartman, secretary of the British women's athletic association, said at a press conference she hoped the race would help to get the women's marathon into the Olympic games. "The race is particularly important, because there is no Olympic marathon for women. I believe the eyes of the athletics world will be focused on what should be a classic race."

The race, sponsored by a cosmetics firm (Avon), is scheduled to start in Battersea Park on the south bank of the Thames and finish at London's historical Guildhall. Joyce Smith, 42-year-old mother of two children, who won the world championship marathon race in Tokyo earlier this year, is expected to lead the British team entry.

Last week John Holt, secretary general of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) which has its headquarters in London, went to Lausanne, Switzerland, to try to persuade the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to include the women's marathon in the games. The IOC is not very enthusiastic about the idea, the Associated Press learned.

Baseball roundup

NEW YORK, April 25 (AP) — Brian Asselstine's RBI single capped a two-run rally in the ninth inning and gave the Atlanta Braves an 8-7 victory over the San Diego Padres last night.

Larvell Blanks started the rally with a single that chased Bob Shirley and brought on reliever Rollie Fingers. Blanks beat a throw to second when Dale Murphy was retired on a groundout and Chris Chambliss legged out a roller to second with Blanks taking third.

Blanks then scored the tying run on Jeff Burroughs' infield single and Asselstine followed with his game-winning hit, giving the victory to Gene Garber. Willie Montanez' two-run homer in the top of the eighth had provided the Padres with a 7-6 lead.

In another National League game, Dusty Baker's three-run homer broke a 2-2 tie in the 10th inning and gave the Los Angeles Dodgers a 5-2 victory over the San Francisco Giants.

Reggie Smith, who earlier hit a solo homer for the Dodgers, singled to start their winning rally and took second on Steve Garvey's base hit before Baker's blast.

In the only game played in the American League yesterday, Lamer Johnson drove in four runs, two with a homer, to lead the Chicago White Sox to a 9-3 victory over the Boston Red Sox.

Johnson batted in a run with a single in the first inning, hit a two-run homer in the fourth and knocked in the tie-breaking run with a groundout in the seventh.

English cricket matches results

LONDON, April 25 (R) — Results of cricket matches which ended today were:

At Oxford: Gloucestershire beat Oxford University by 342 runs. Gloucestershire 319 for three declared and 260 for four declared. Oxford University 79 and 158.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

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6:30 News
7:00 News
7:30 News
8:00 News
8:30 News
9:00 News
9:30 News
10:00 News
10:30 News
11:00 News
11:30 News

CHANNEL 6

6:30 French programme
7:00 News in French
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RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Sign on
7:01 Morning Show
7:30 News Bulletin
7:40 Morning Show
8:00 News Summary
8:30 News in Arabic
9:00 News in Arabic
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AMMAN AIRPORT

ARRIVALS:

7:00 Cairo (EA)
8:00 Agiba
8:15 Doha, Kuwait
9:15 Ras Al Khaima, Abu Dhabi
9:30 Karachi, Dubai (RUG)
9:40 Tehran
10:00 Beirut
11:00 Riyadh, Doha (SDI)
12:00 Kuwait (EA)
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DEPARTURES:

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6:50 Doha, Athens
7:00 Geneva, Brussels
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22:45 London
22:50 Paris, Beirut (AF)
22:55 Amsterdam, Athens, Beirut (KLM)
23:30 Baghdad, Athens
23:40 Beirut (MEA)
23:50 Copenhagen, Athens
24:00 Frankfurt
24:10 Cairo (EA)
24:25 Cairo (EA)
24:35 Cairo (EA)
24:45 London
24:50 Paris, Beirut (AF)
24:55 Amsterdam, Athens, Beirut (KLM)

EMERGENCIES

DOCTORS:
Amman (18730)
Wahj Barakat (18730)
Tayyar Sa'ad (12592)
1874
Amman Al Shubul
Farah Al 'Aghab (18723)

PHARMACIES:

Al Salem (18730)
Kamel (18730)
Baker (18730)
Al Lail

TAXIS:

Taxi (44460)
Al Nadi (44433)
Tariq (12324)
Shamsat (16234)
Ayman (16503)

BBC RADIO

GMT

06:00 News
06:30 The March of the Women
06:45 Financial News: Reflections
06:50 News: Press Review
07:15 About Britain
07:30 The King of Instruments
07:45 The World Today
08:00 News
08:30 Command Performance
08:45 News: New about Britain
09:15 From the World
09:30 Music from Scotland
09:45 Network U.K.
09:50 News: Reflections
09:55 The World Today
10:00 Financial News: Look Ahead
10:15 About Britain
10:30 Matthew on Music
10:45 Financial News: Reflections
11:00 News: New about Britain
11:15 The Wise Trade
11:30 Radio Newsworld
11:45 Jazz for the Ailing
12:00 Sports Round-up
12:15 News: Book Choice
12:30 News: Community
12:45 Network U.K.
12:50 Farmer Giles of Ham
12:55 Saturday Special
13:00 Radio Newsworld
13:15 Saturday Special
13:30 News: Community
13:45 Network U.K.
13:50 Sports Round-up
14:00 News: New about Britain

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT
06:30 The Breakfast Show: news on the hour and 28 min. after each hour
17:00 Weekend
17:05 Special English: newsworld and their stories, features, short stories
18:30 New York, New York
19:00 News and The Week
19:30 Press Conference USA
20:00 Special English: newsworld and their stories
20:15 Music USA (12:25)
21:00 Weekend

CULTURAL CENTRES (Amman)

American Centre 41220
British Council 34247-6
French Cultural Centre 37009
German Cultural Centre 41993
Italian Cultural Centre 41993
Japanese Cultural Centre 24040
Korean Cultural Centre 61993
Libyan Cultural Centre 61993
Polish Cultural Centre 61993
Portuguese Cultural Centre 61993
Romanian Cultural Centre 61993
Russian Cultural Centre 61993
Spanish Cultural Centre 61993
Swedish Cultural Centre 61993
Swiss Cultural Centre 61993
U.S. Cultural Centre 61993
Y.W.C.A. 61993
Y.W.M.C.A. 61993
Zionist Cultural Centre 61993

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Amman)

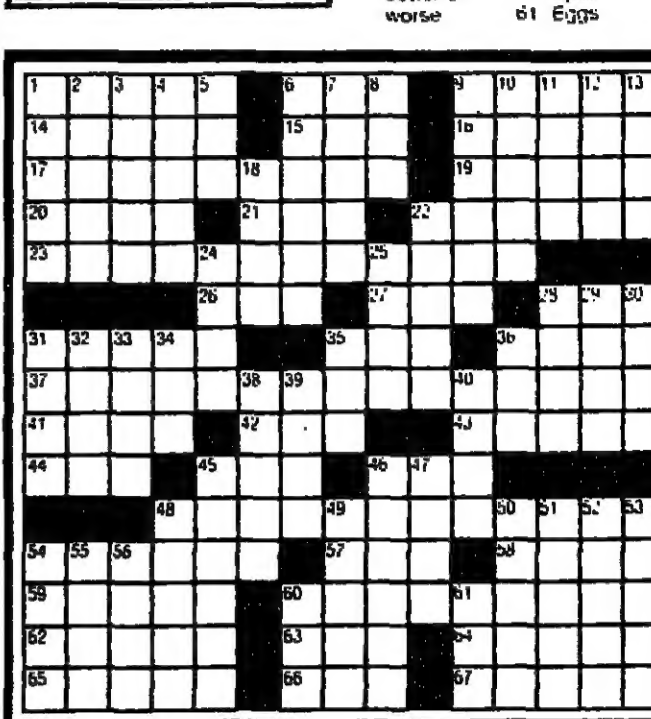
Ambulance (government) 7511
Civil defence rescue 34291-4

THE Daily Crossword by Susan Mindell

ACROSS
1 Boxes
6 Pigeon
9 Grave
14 Hoopster
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16 Eat into
17 Expressions
19 Weather
20 Zhivago's
21 Formicary
22 Soften up
23 Do some
26 Domain
27 Tarzan's
28 Friend
31 Supplied
33 King beater
35 Lie
37 Courts
41 Recording
42 River to the Volga
43 Bottomless
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45 Silkwoim
46 Trap
48 Ventures
54 Fondle
57 Four-in-hand
58 Turns to the right
59 Deputy
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62 Taunt
63 Hail
64 Chapter
65 Less usual
66 Place for flowers
67 Dolts
25 Truth
28 Infant
29 Afflictions
30 Hymenoptera
31 Palo —
32 Jungle
33 Be gloomy
34 Increase
35 Macaw
36 Washing
38 Bifurcates
39 Migratory
40 Solemn vow
41 Spring
42 Holiday
43 Distressed
44 Decorates
45 Uplight
46 Gar range
47 DeMille
48 Approaches
49 Perfume
50 Park in
51 Roman
52 state-man
53 Along in
54 Enjoys a
55 Engineer's
56 Eggs

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS
1 PUSH
6 ALICE
9 SUNSHINE
14 WIFE
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CULTURAL CENTRES (Damascus)

Al Hama Theatre 226-448
Al Qa'bi Art Gallery 226-527
American Centre 226-362
Arab Cultural Centre 333-727
Bulgarian Cultural Centre 557-901

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Damascus)

Ambulance (government) 90
Chamber of Commerce 118-339
Electric Power Co. (Heptel) 223-487
Fire headquarters 91
Information 9097
Municipal water service 113-500

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Castro opens door to all Cubans wanting to leave

KEY WEST, Florida, April 25 (Agencies) — The government of Fidel Castro will open the doors of Cuba to all

Cuban citizens wanting to leave the island, a prominent Cuban exile leader said early today.

As hundreds more Cuban refugees headed for Florida aboard a flotilla of boats launched by Cuban exiles living in the U.S., Mr. Napoleon Vilaboa, organizer of the refugee boatlift, said in Miami that a top Cuban official had assured him the door is open to all would-be emigrants.

Mr. Vilaboa said he had received the assurances yesterday from Mr. Rene Rodriguez president of the Cuban institute of friendship with the people.

Nine boats carrying up to 536 refugees had arrived in Florida by late yesterday, immigration officials said, bringing to 1,110, the number of Cubans landed since President Castro told exiles living in Florida they could pick up relatives at the port of Mariel, gateway for the boatlift.

The OK came two weeks after 10,000 Cubans jammed into the Peruvian embassy in Havana, seeking safe passage out of their Communist homeland. The massive influx of Cubans into the U.S. posed a sticky problem.

The U.S. State Department meanwhile is groping over demands by Haitian refugees to be granted political asylum. Haitians, who also are arguing for immigration, claim their situation does not differ from that of the Cubans.

U.S. State Department spokesman Mr. Thomas Ross said coastal authorities have been given instructions to broadcast warnings that picking up the Cuban immigrants was illegal. U.S. immigration officials have said boat owners could not retrieve immigrants or be charged with smuggling.

On Wednesday, President Castro's government expanded its boatlift offer, saying anyone who wanted to leave Cuba could go to Mariel. For each relative picked up, exiles reportedly are required to take four other refugees.

The expanded offer reportedly

touched off frenzied efforts by thousands of Cubans in Havana to contact relatives in exile.

The usually easy-going island community became chaotic with drivers in cars flashing fistfuls of money to boat captains in efforts to buy passage for relatives.

Havana officials speculate President Castro's announcement could trigger an exodus of hun-

dreds of thousands. A stern statement from Washington said the boatlift was undermining international efforts to evacuate the estimated 9,500 Cubans still in the Peruvian embassy compound.

The U.S. State Department had intended to accept 3,500 of the refugees from the embassy, with the remainder headed to other countries.

Dragnet sweeps India for Singh murderers

NEW DELHI, April 25 (R) — A police dragnet swept northern India today for masked killers who shot dead religious sect leader Baba Gurbachan Singh outside his Delhi home last night.

Police said they had detained five men for questioning in connection with the murder.

Premier Indira Gandhi made an early visit to the residence to pay condolences to the bereaved family and agreed to meet leaders of the Nirankari religious sect tomorrow in an effort to avert retaliatory violence.

The 50-year-old Singh was regarded as a prophet by his 10 million followers and there were fears that his murder might lead to fresh clashes between his break-away Nirankari sect of the Sikh religion and orthodox Sikhs.

Police said the Nirankari leader was returning to his Delhi home after a function late last night when the attackers, who were waiting in a front ground floor room of his house, opened fire with a rifle.

In a burst of six shots, one bullet hit Singh in the chest and killed him on the spot. Another bullet killed a bodyguard and Singh's wife and a follower were injured, police said.

The assailants escaped in the dark and police were still search-

ing for them today in Delhi and neighbouring states. Dozens of people have been killed in clashes between the Nirankaris and Sikhs in northern India over the past two years.

The Nirankaris arouse strong emotions among orthodox Sikhs because they raised Singh to the status of a prophet and do not insist on the strict discipline of the Sikh religion which, among other things, insists that Sikh men wear turbans and forbids them to cut their hair.

Hostage crisis proves invaluable to Moscow

Russia emerges as key ally of Iran

MOSCOW, April 25 (R) — The Soviet Union is emerging as a key ally of Iran in its critical confrontation with the United States.

Even before the crisis deepened with President Carter's disclosure today of the abortive attempt to rescue the hostages from the United States embassy in Tehran, Moscow appeared to have decided it could gain by stepping into the breach.

With western countries deciding to cut their trade with Iran, the Soviet leaders, after some initial hesitations, appeared to feel that a gamble to back Iran against Mr. Carter could result in political, strategic and, possibly, economic dividends.

Politically, the hostage crisis has proved invaluable to Moscow. All the signs point to the Soviet Union wanting it to continue as long as possible.

Above all the crisis has distracted attention in Iran from the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Since the fall of the Shah, Moscow has been searching for a stable basis for relations with its southern neighbour. Stability and predictability, the qualities Moscow likes to see in its neighbours, have been noticeably lacking from the volatile Iranian political scene since the ousting of the Shah.

Seeing the way the tide was running in Iran, the Soviet Union quickly declared its support for Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution, as did the pro-Moscow Tudeh party.

Despite long-term worries about the desirability of having a militant Islamic state on its borders, Moscow was obviously pleased by the collapse of the American strategic position in Iran.

But last summer, as unrest

spread among Iran's national minorities and conflicts erupted between the left and the central government, Moscow started to adopt a more critical tone.

In September a senior Soviet commentator for Izvestia newspaper, Mr. Alexander Bovin, wrote off the Iranian revolution as a flop which had brought nothing but economic chaos, anti-communist hysteria, religious fanaticism and the repression of leftwing and minority groups.

More ominously for Tehran, hints of Soviet sympathy for the autonomy demands of Iran's Kurds and Azerbaijanis crept into the Soviet press.

Privately, Soviet officials still express unease and hostility towards the kind of Islamic fundamentalism which the Iranian revolution has brought to power.

Soviet Communists believe that in the long term religion, and especially Islam, is a backward force with which there can be no real compromise.

But for the short term, the overriding preoccupation is that the thrust of Iran's militancy should be directed against the West, not against the atheistic Soviet Union.

When the U.S. embassy personnel were seized in Tehran last November, there was widespread sympathy for them among Russians, some of whom remembered that Russia's ambassador to Iran in the 19th century, poet Alexander Griboyedov, was murdered by an Islamic mob.

But the Soviet Union, normally a stickler for diplomatic immunity where its own missions are concerned, took an even-handed view and said the conflict should be settled to the satisfaction of both Iran and the U.S.

But in mid-December, around the time the Soviet leadership must have decided to send its troops into Afghanistan, the Soviet Communist party newspaper Pravda swung round to giving Iran outright support.

Now, with the crisis even graver and the West deciding on trade sanctions, the Soviet Union is going a step further and preparing to do its best, with its East European allies, to come to Iran's rescue.

One of the earlier raids was a failure, and the success of the other is still debated.

In recent years, the most spectacularly successful military attempt to free hostages was an Israeli raid on Entebbe airport in Uganda, a 1976 commando attack that freed 103 persons being held by the hijackers of an Air France jetliner.

Another successful raid to free hostages of a hijacked plane came in October, 1977, when West German commandos attacked a Lufthansa jet at the airport in Mogadishu, Somalia, freeing 86 hostages.

The first American attempt was on Nov. 21, 1970 when a combined strike force of volunteer U.S. air force and army troops attacked the Sontay prisoner of war camp, 37 kilometres west of Hanoi in North Vietnam. The raid was ordered by President Richard Nixon after American commanders had received reports of American prisoners dying at the camp.

But the attackers, led by Brigadier General Leroy Manor, found the camp empty, its prisoners having been removed earlier. During the attack, one American soldier was slightly wounded by enemy rifle fire and one U.S. helicopter crashed at the site.

On May 12, 1975, Kampucheans seized the Mayaguez, a 10,000-ton cargo ship 100 kilometres off the coast of that Southeast Asian nation. President Gerald Ford, calling the seizure an act of piracy, ordered a military assault to free the 40 crew members.

The raid by the West German commandos freed the 86 passengers and crew of a Lufthansa jet who had been held hostage by four guerrillas demanding \$15 million ransom and the freeing of 13 prisoners. Several of the prisoners the guerrillas wanted freed were members of the notorious Baader-Meinhof gang, which has been involved in a number of incidents of terrorism in West Germany in recent years.

Three of the hijackers were killed and the fourth was seriously wounded by the West German commandos. The commando team had been formed as a result of the 1972 incident at the Munich Olympics, when guerrillas had seized, and later killed, members of the Israeli Olympic team.

Soviet negotiators are in Tehran to conclude a new economic cooperation agreement updating the 15-year accord which the Shah signed on a visit to Moscow in 1972.

Since the fall of the Shah economic ties with Iran have failed to develop to Moscow's satisfaction, and last year's trade turnover was 40 per cent down on that of 1978.

In March the two countries failed to agree on a new price for

railway line built by the czars early this century between Tabriz and the Soviet border.

This rail link, which brought in vital British and American supplies to the Soviet Union in World War II, is again likely to be of key importance if Iran re-orientates its trade completely to the Communist bloc.

According to Iranian diplomats here a large part of Iran's trade with East and West Europe, in addition to trade with the Soviet Union, already passes through the border railway junction of Julfa.

The freight terminal can handle between 200 and 300 wagonloads a day and this could probably be increased. Trains cannot cross the border because of the different gauge.

Road freight passes through the crossing point at Astara on the Caspian Sea coast, where a major cargo handling depot has been built on the Soviet side of the border and a similar one is under construction on the Iranian side.

There is also a fast-expanding transport route through the Caspian Sea to the Soviet inland waterway network, along which dual-purpose river-sea freight vessels can move to and from the Baltic, the Black Sea and even the Arctic without unloading.

The Soviet Union, with its Communist allies, could probably supply a fair amount of Iran's essential import needs, but would probably insist on some political gestures in return.

These might include recognition of the Babrak Karmal government in Afghanistan, a promise to stop support for Afghan rebels, and an end to anti-Soviet statements by Iranian leaders.

Unlike its East European allies, the Soviet Union has no immediate need of Iranian oil supplies. But there would be obvious long-term benefits for Moscow in offering technical help to Iran in the operation of its oilfields, which are now suffering from a lack of American spare parts.

In the short term, Soviet leaders face a tricky problem in deciding how to respond militarily should Iran become involved in an armed conflict either with the United States or Iraq.

Strong Soviet nuclear blast detected

THE HAGUE, April 25 (Agencies) — The Dutch Meteorological Institute (KNMI) said it detected a strong Soviet underground nuclear test early today, the Soviet Union's third such test this month.

The explosion occurred in the area of Semipalatinsk in Kazakhstan, an area of central Asia. It measured force 6.5 on the Richter scale usually used for measuring the strength of earthquakes.

Iranian gas, which has been supplied to the Soviet Caucasus since 1970 by pipeline at a rate of 10 billion cubic metres a year.

Iran wanted a five-fold price increase from 76 cents per million British Thermal Units to \$3.63, but the Soviet side offered a maximum of 3.5 times the old price.

Iran cancelled plans for a second gas pipeline northwards which would have been part of a gigantic switch deal involving the supply of Soviet gas to Europe and Iranian gas to the Soviet Union.

But work is continuing on other projects, including the expansion of the Soviet-built Isfahan steelworks from a capacity of 0.5 million tonnes a year to 1.9 million tonnes.

The Soviet Union is also building a 1,260 megawatt power station and preparing to electrify the

Chronology of events in Iran hostage crisis

WASHINGTON, April 25 (R) — Here are key developments in the Iran hostage crisis:

- Nov. 4 — Followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini storm embassy in Tehran, threaten to hold hostages until Shah is sent back to Iran from the United States.
- 5 — U.S. officials refuse to return the deposed Shah.
- 6 — Iranian Premier Mehdi Bazargan's government resigns.
- 10 — President Carter orders Iranians staying illegally in States to be deported.
- 12 — Mr. Carter halts U.S. imports of Iranian oil. Iran stops exports to U.S.
- 14 — U.S. freezes Iran's assets in American banks.
- 18 — Ayatollah Khomeini orders release of black and female hostages.
- 19 — Three hostages released. Ayatollah warns others may be spies.
- 20 — United States raises possible use of military force. Ten blacks and women hostages released.
- 28 — Moderate Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr replaced as Iranian minister by Sadeq Qotbzadeh.
- Dec. 1 — Captors say CIA agents at U.S. embassy will be taken to Iran.
- 3 — Iranians overwhelmingly back new constitution giving Ayatollah Khomeini and Muslim clergy.
- 7 — President Carter rules out military action while hostages held.
- 8 — Mr. Qotbzadeh proposes independent commission to investigate past U.S. role in Iran.
- 12 — State Department orders most Iranian diplomats to quit States.
- 15 — Deposed Shah leaves U.S. for Panama.
- 29 — U.S. agrees to delay sanctions against Iran while U.N. general makes bid for hostage release.
- 31 — U.N. Security Council conditionally approves sanctions against Iran.
- Jan. 13 — Moscow vetoes Security Council sanctions. U.S. says go ahead unilaterally, with allied support. U.S. official Gulf blockade under study.
- 23 — President Carter warns in State of the Union speech to pay severe price if hostages harmed.
- 27 — Moderate Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr elected Iranian president.
- Feb. 2 — Ruling Iranian revolutionary council announced acceptance of proposed U.N. international inquiry into Shah's role.
- 7 — U.S. shelves sanctions plan.
- 13 — Mr. Bani-Sadr says Ayatollah Khomeini has approved hostages release, demanding U.S. self-criticism for past support of Shah but omitting demand for deposed Shah's return.
- 23 — Panel arrives in Tehran but Ayatollah Khomeini nullifies release before new parliament meets in April.
- March 7 — Tehran says foreign Minister Qotbzadeh to take deposed Shah and U.S. embassy compound on March 8.
- 8 — Captors defy Mr. Qotbzadeh and refuse handover.
- 11 — U.N. panel leaves Iran in failure.
- 16 — Islamic Republican party run by militant clergy, takes lead in first round of parliamentary elections.
- 23 — Deposed Shah leaves Panama for Egypt.
- 26 — Second-round Iranian parliamentary vote postponed indefinitely following charges of irregularities in first round.
- April 7 — U.S. breaks diplomatic relations, embargoes exports to Iran.
- 17 — Mr. Carter imposes more economic measures, says a big or other act of force "the only next step available."
- 23 — Western European allies agree to economic and diplomatic sanctions at U.S. urging if no decisive progress towards release of hostages by May 17.
- 24 — Mr. Qotbzadeh says Iran will close entire Gulf if United tries to blockade oil exports.
- 25 — U.S. reports landing of special military force in Iran to rescue hostages, but mission aborted because of aircraft engine failure. Eight Americans killed when two U.S. aircraft collided on ground. President Carter says he accepts full responsibility for decision to attempt rescue.

U.S. naval task force heads for Indian Ocean

SINGAPORE, April 25 (R) — A U.S. naval task force, headed by the aircraft carrier Constellation, left Singapore today for the Indian Ocean only a few hours before a Washington announcement of an abortive mission to rescue the American hostages in Tehran. Informed diplomatic sources said the Constellation and its six ships would boost a formidable U.S. naval presence in the Indian Ocean, but they could not say whether the latest task force would proceed to the Gulf.

They also could not say whether sending the Constellation, two other seventh fleet carriers, Okinawa and Coral Sea, was part of the rescue mission. A U.S. embassy spokesman declined comment on the deployment of the Constellation. "As a standard, we do not comment on the movement of our naval ships," he said. But the diplomatic sources said the Constellation and its ships would bring the U.S. naval strength in the Indian Ocean more than 30, the highest level ever.

The Soviet Union is believed to have about the same number of naval vessels in the Indian Ocean, according to the sources. Constellation has 80 aircraft aboard.

U.S. Indian Ocean fleet short of missiles, arm

WASHINGTON, April 25 (AP) — The U.S. navy has had difficulty finding air-to-air missiles for its warplanes aboard carriers stationed near the Gulf, Defence Department sources said yesterday.

"We've had to draw from other areas and put most of our eggs in the Indian Ocean basket," said one source who asked to remain anonymous.

Asked about reports that planes on the carriers Nimitz and Coral Sea were short of missiles, the navy said it deploys its forces "with sufficient munitions, including missiles, to perform their assigned operational missions." The navy could not elaborate on that statement.

However, defence sources said there is a shortage of missiles used by jet fighters for air combat because the administration of U.S. President Jimmy Carter for several years had held down requests to Congress for money for such weapons.

As a result, the sources said, the navy had a munitions shortage in the Indian Ocean-Arabian Sea area and was pulling supplies from other places.

This, in turn, has strained the combat readiness of carriers elsewhere, the sources said.

Mr. Russell Hale, a professional staff aide with the House sea power subcommittee, said in an interview that "we don't have enough Phoenix missiles on any carrier for more than one or two sorties."

"The Phoenix is a weapon for fleet air defense mounted on F-14 fighters," Mr. Hale said. "It is not a tactical missile. It is a fleet defense missile, and it is necessary to have it on the fleet."

Meanwhile, the Navy Ministry said today a woman naval unit, made of destroyers, a tender and will leave for the Indian Ocean Tuesday, but stay clear of crisis area.

In the course of the voyage, German units will call at of Brest and Toulon through the Suez Canal, Karachi, Pakistan, India, Colombo, Sri Lanka, British-administered Diego Garcia and Maldives, a statement said.

"All details of this trip duration and extent planned as early as the 1979 and were arranged host countries," the statement said.

Tito clings to life

LJUBLJANA, April 25 (R) — President Tito still clung tenaciously to life today, although his doctors said his condition was extremely grave and showed no significant signs of improvement.

A medical bulletin said the 87-year-old Yugoslav leader, who fell seriously ill 105 days ago, remained without any real changes since yesterday.

But the panel of eight doctors, all of them medical professors, said that signs of easing in his state of coma and shock were still evident today. The slight improvement first appeared yesterday, after his death had seemed imminent.

They expressed growing aston-

ishment at the president's stamina and ability to fight for survival, despite his desperately weakened state and many severe ailments, such as heart weakness, pneumonia, complete kidney failure, extensive liver damage and jaundice.

Japan boycotts Moscow Games

TOKYO, April 25 (AP) — The government said today Japan is unable to send athletes to the Moscow Olympics "under the current circumstances" and conveyed this information to the Japan Olympic Committee (JOC). The government announcement charged that the host country, Soviet Union, is continuing the occupation in Afghanistan which is hurting the "spirit of peace and friendship." The JOC has said that it favoured Japan's participation in the Olympic Games in Moscow "in principle" but the JOC's final stand will be made by the middle of May.

Luxembourg urges Olympic boycott

LUXEMBOURG, April 25 (R) — Luxembourg has urged its Olympic committee to join the international boycott of the Moscow Summer Games. Foreign Minister Gaston Thorn, declaring the Centre-Right coalition's position for the first time, told parliament last night Luxembourg should boycott the games to show solidarity with the United States. Mr. Thorn was speaking in a debate on a boycott motion by Liberal deputy Jean Hamilius, himself a former Olympic athlete. The chamber is to vote on May 6. The committee is to meet tomorrow to take a decision. This tiny state of 360,000 people could send a half-dozen competitors to Moscow.

Top Soviet delegation visits Kabul

MOSCOW, April 25 (R) — A Soviet delegation led by Mikhail Zimyanin, a secretary of the Communist Party central committee, left here today for Kabul.

The delegation, which also included Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Arkhipov, an economic specialist, and Jabar Rasulov, first secretary of the Communist Party in Soviet Tadzhikistan, will attend celebrations of the second anniversary of the Afghan revolution.

Mr. Zimyanin is the most senior party official to have been reported visiting Kabul since the Soviet military intervention at the end of December.

Ethiopian official took casino bribe

ADDIS ABABA, April 25 (R) — A former member of Ethiopia's ruling military council took illicit payments from the owners of an Addis Ababa casino, a court martial has been told.

The state-run television service last night showed a film of the trial of Lt. Colonel Demissie Deressa, a former member of the central committee of the provisional military administrative council, known as the Dergue.

Colonel Demissie and another former Dergue member, Colonel Abate Merasha were, with nine government officials, charged with a number of offences including corruption, extortion and espionage, last February.

Prosecution witnesses on last night's programme said Colonel Demissie had collected the illicit payments from the casino. They said he had also abused his position by illegally ordering the eviction of the casino manager.



NEW YORK — U.S. Olympic rower Miss Anita DeFranz right, announces an athlete's suit against the U.S. Olympic Committee for depriving Americans of the opportunity to compete in the Moscow Games. A number of athletes joined the 1976 Olympic bronze medalist in the suit filed Wednesday in Washington D.C. With Miss DeFranz at the New York press conference is Mr. Ira Glasser, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union. (AP wirephoto)

King Khaled shelves plans to visit U.K.

Norway to screen 'Death of a Princess'

OSLO, April 25 (Agencies) — Norwegian television will screen the controversial British documentary "Death of a Princess," broadcasting sources said here last night. The single-channel, state-run television network has bought the screening rights and will show the documentary in four weeks.

The Saudi government has described the documentary, about the public execution in 1977 of a Saudi princess and her lover for adultery, as an insult to the royal family and an attack on Islam. A Saudi newspaper last week quoted reliable sources as saying Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states were considering severe economic sanctions against Britain and the Netherlands which has also shown the film.

Wednesday the Saudi government asked Britain to withdraw its ambassador in protest over the documentary. Saudi sanctions against Norway could do only limited damage because of Norwegian North Sea oil reserves but Norway risks losing exports which last year totalled over 400 million kroner (\$80 million).

In Copenhagen yesterday a Danish television producer said Danish state television would show the film if it was good enough. This week Denmark signed an agreement to buy one million tonnes of oil a year from Saudi Arabia over the next three years, six per cent of her oil consumption.

Meanwhile in London, government sources said yesterday Saudi Arabian King Khaled, still angered over the British screening of the film, has shelved plans for a state visit this year to Britain.

سكدا عداك